

### REMARKS

Further to the October 16 and October 17, 2001 telephone interviews between Examiner Afremova and the undersigned, this Amendment is filed to summarize the discussions during these telephone interviews and to amend the claims so that they are in condition for allowance.

Supports for the amendments to claims 11, 16, 22, 27 and 28 can be found on page 3, line 28-29. Support for new claims 29-32 can be found on page 3, line 26. The claims amendments and the new claims are fully supported by the original specification and do not raise any issue of new matter.

With regard to the Examiner's concern that this claim Amendment may raise new issues and may not be entered into record after final office action, Applicant concurrently filed a Request for Continued Examination ("RCE"). Therefore, entry of these amendments is respectfully requested.

### INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Copies of references AS, AT and AR are enclosed. Applicant respectfully request that these references be considered and made of records.

### THE SPECIFICATION

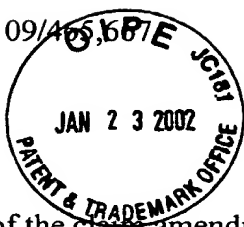
A copy of the abstract of the disclosure is enclosed.

### OBJECTIONS AND CLAIM REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. 112

Applicant acknowledges the withdrawal of these objections and rejections.

### CLAIM REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. 103

Applicant appreciates the fact that the Examiner agrees that all pending claims, as amended, are nonobvious over any combination of the cited references, A, B, C, D, and E as none of these references or any combination of these references teach or suggest the subject matter of the amended claims and that unexpected results, i.e., higher bacteria viability in the tablets prepared from the claimed methods as shown on pages 4 and 5 of the original specification, provides further supports that the claimed methods are nonobvious over all the cited prior art references. Therefore, reconsideration and withdrawal of the office action rejections are respectfully requested.



CONCLUSION

In view of the claim amendments, the remarks and the discussions between Examiner Alfemova and the undersigned, all pending claims, i.e., claims 11, 12 and 14-32, as amended, are in condition for allowance. Accordingly, entry of this Amendment and the issuance of a Notice of Allowance are respectfully requested.

If any additional fees are required, the Examiner is also authorized to charge any such fees to our Deposit Account No. 12-1095.

Dated: October 18, 2001

Respectfully submitted,

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